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## ECONOMICS

GIBBS, WINIFRED STUART. *The Minimum Cost of Living: A Study of Families of Limited Income in New York City.* Pp. xv, 93. Price, \$1.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1917.

ROSE, MARY SWARTZ. *Feeding the Family.* Pp. xvii, 449. Price, \$2.10. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1916.

*The Minimum Cost of Living* gives the results of a systematic method of recording family expenditures. It is of value because it shows how families can maintain self respect, health and working power on a small sum of money by means of the budget. It must be kept in mind, however, in reading this book that the budgets given are *not to be set up as standards for the cost of living*. The clothing estimate is admittedly inadequate even when eked out by gifts of clothing from relations.

Miss Rose has given us a guide to good nutrition in *Feeding the Family* at a time when food values are a national problem. The discussion of food materials and bodily needs is comprehensive enough to take in all ages and the sex distinction and definite enough to group them properly. Dietary suggestions are offered for the muscularly active, the sedentary, the fat and the thin, the prospective and the nursing mother, the sick and the convalescent, and the family as a whole is considered.

Food values are handled in a way that housewives can understand and prices of food are subordinated to food values, though economical menus are given and simple dishes used in food groupings and combinations. Food prejudices and food habits are discussed.

N. D. H.

MCPHERSON, LOGAN G. *How the World Makes Its Living.* Pp. vii, 435. Price, \$2.00. New York: The Century Company, 1916.

O'HARA, FRANK. *Introduction to Economics.* Pp. vii, 259. Price, \$1.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1916.

In this volume the author has undertaken to give a popular presentation of the theory of economic life as it exists today and its evolution from earlier institutions. There is an evident attempt to make the book thoroughly scientific and, at the same time, readable. In the latter respect, the author has certainly succeeded most admirably. Unfortunately, the scientific accuracy of the work is marred by carelessness at certain points. For example, the word utility is used sometimes to designate a material thing and sometimes to indicate the relation of a thing to a person. Similarly, the ideas of utility and value are confused throughout the book. This leads the author into the error of constantly referring to the "flow of value" and "the aggregate of values." The interest theory presented by Mr. McPherson seems to the reviewer to be materially incomplete.

At the close of the book, the author goes out of his way to condemn government ownership and labor unions and to extol the merits of our great corporations. Aside from the final chapters which deal with the subjects just mentioned, the